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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

Too many prisoners

After the Jeremy Hall mistrial, questions remain about Kelvin Sawa's death
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New name for airport

Dorothy Rungeling gets her due for facility she helped to save 50 years ago
Page 7

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UPFRONT

■ KELVIN SAWA HANGING

After Hall mistrial, questions remain about Sawa's death

RICHARD WARNICA
Postmedia Network

Just after 2 p.m. on Aug. 15, 2011, William Martin, a guard at Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold heard a loud thumping coming from a nearby range.

When he went to investigate, he found an erratic prisoner hammering on the glass. The man seemed frantic, desperate for help. At the man's direction, Martin headed toward one of the cells.

What he saw through the bars stopped him. An older man lay slumped on the floor. He was chubby, with dark hair. He had a noose around his neck.

Martin quickly signalled for another guard to open the cell. He dragged the man out and began CPR. Other guards soon joined. Paramedics weren't far behind. They were too late.

The man's name was Kelvin Sawa, of Port Colborne. He was 46 years old. He'd been in the detention centre for three days and he was, according to Crown prosecutors, literally scared into causing his own death.

In the final 80 minutes of his consciousness, Sawa was beaten bloody. He was punched. He was kicked. He was spat on. He had deodorant forced down his throat. Eventually, he was given a noose and told to use it. He did.

Police would later charge two men with murder in Sawa's death: the man who made the noose and the man who threw it in Sawa's cell.

One of the two, Cale Rose, pleaded guilty to manslaughter last year. The other, Jeremy Hall, fought the charges.

At his trial, which lasted nearly two months and ended this week in Welland, prosecutors put forward a novel case: They argued that though Hall was nowhere near Sawa when he died, he had nonetheless murdered him.

He initiated the hearing, they said, and he controlled the inmates who hauled Sawa to death.

Testimony from guards and inmates painted a disturbing picture of life on the protective custody range, where inmates made their own rules and where guards looked the other way or worse.

The evidence suggests that at the very least, responsibility for Sawa's death extends beyond Rose and Hall — to other inmates, to the institution, and perhaps most disturbingly, to at least one guard.

On Aug. 10, 2011, Niagara Regional Police arrested Kelvin Sawa at his apartment in Port Colborne. They accused him of a heinous act.

According to police, Sawa lured a disabled 14-year-old boy into his home by offering him a drink. Once inside, he forced the boy, who had the mental capacity of an eight-year-old, to perform fellatio.

He digitally penetrated the boy, then forced him to have anal sex.

In an interview with police Aug. 12, Sawa denied raping anyone. He said the boy offered him fellatio in return for a beer. He accepted, but couldn't get an erection.

After the interview was over, Sawa could be heard muttering to himself: "F---, I'm screwed anyway."

Sawa kept in touch with his family and friends after his arrest, according to his sis-



CREDIT: ONTARIO CROWN ATTORNEY

A photo provided as evidence in the hanging death of Kelvin Sawa at the Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold. Sawa, a 46-year-old taxi driver from Port Colborne, was found hanging on Aug. 15, 2011, in jail cell No. 10 of 2 Wing, which is the maximum security area of the Niagara Detention Centre.

ter Lisa. "I had a 14-year-old son," at the time, she said. "It definitely wasn't a concern. I don't think someone starts this at 46."

Sawa thought he was getting out on Aug. 15, but there was a problem with his surety, so guards returned him to Niagara Detention Centre.

NIDC was built to hold 250 inmates — all doing short sentences or awaiting trial. But it routinely packs in many more than that. Sawa was assigned to 2 Wing of the maximum-security unit, a chronically overcrowded range for inmates in protective custody.

The wing "was always overcrowded," said Martin, the guard. On that day, 33 inmates were crammed into 12 cells. In 10 cells, three men were forced to sleep in a space never meant to fit them, with two on a bunk and a third on

the floor, next to the toilet. Two inmates shared one cell. Two inmates shared one cell, and one man had a cell all to himself.

That man was Jeremy Hall. "He was the big dog on the range," said Christopher Boland, who was also locked up on 2 Wing that day.

A heavily tattooed career criminal from Hamilton, Hall was awaiting trial in a notorious Ontario murder, for which he was later convicted and sentenced to life.

According to testimony from guards and inmates, Hall ran 2 Wing in August 2011. He decided where the other prisoners slept, assigning them cells. He controlled the phones and the television. Even when he was locked in his cell, he could change the channels using a contraption built from strings and toothpaste caps.

Hall also enforced the inmates' rules, according to Mike Slingerland, who was also locked up that day. If Hall didn't like something, he'd take care of it, or he'd get his lieutenant, a man named Cale Rose, to do it for him, Slingerland said.

"He ran the show," said Boland.

"It was his way or no way. What he says goes."

In security footage taken the day Sawa died, Hall is easy to pick out. He's the only one not wearing prison-issue shoes, for one thing.

Instead, he had a pair of white Nikes. He's almost bald and visibly muscular. He worked out every day on 2 Wing, using a rope built from strips of torn bed sheets to lift weights made from milk jugs filled with water and wrapped in T-shirts.

The rope was technically contraband, but multiple guards testified that they routinely let that kind of thing slide.

Sawa returned to 2 Wing just after 1 p.m. He'd been on the range for several days, but had gone mostly unnoticed. All that was about to change.

Chris Boland said he was on the phone when a guard called him over and told him Sawa was in on "shitty charges." Hoping to earn brownie points with the range leader, Boland immediately told Hall.

"I knew once I said something, he was going to get heat up," he said. "But if I didn't say something, I was going to get heat up."

David Earle, another prisoner, said the guard, identified as Don Shaver, told Hall directly "I overheard him saying 'That guy's in on bad charges,'" Earle said. "And basically, Give it to him. Beat him up."

Everyone agrees on what happened next.

Sawa, newly returned from court, went to take a shower. Hall followed him into the bathroom. He first covered his fists in torn strips of bed sheet — like boxing wraps — then delivered a brief, savage beating.

Cale Rose said he heard the "skin on skin" noise of an attack. Adam O'Leary, one of Sawa's two cellmates, heard "all kinds of screaming and stuff." I was thinking somebody was getting whacked.

"There are no cameras in the shower area. But the security footage showed Hall emerging from the washroom."

"He said he just lit up Sawa," Slingerland said. He was bragging "that he was landing amazing shots."

Continued on next page

LOCAL NEWS

■ SAWA

Testimony revealed a jail with too many prisoners and guards with too little authority

From previous page

Sawa emerged a few minutes later. "He looked like a beaten dog," said Slingerland. "He was discomfited," added Boland. "His face looked like popcorn."

For Sawa, though, the ordeal had just begun. The security footage shows him seated at one of the range's tables. For several long minutes, inmates circled him. They yelled at him. They spat at him. They threw apple cores and deodorant sticks at his head. He did nothing to fight back.

At one point, an inmate named Matt Owl put a stick of deodorant into Sawa's mouth. He used two fingers to push it into his throat, said Boland. "And then he gave him a tap on the chin and said 'show,'"

At 1:30, the guards appeared for their rounds. Sawa, at this point, was visibly wounded. But the guard circled the range did nothing.

The Crown argued that Hall ordered Sawa to go back into his cell, away from the cameras where the violence could escalate. Cale Rose backed that account: "He told him to go into his cell," he said.

The prisoners outside the cell ordered Sawa's cellmate, O'Leary, to lay on another beating. O'Leary said he agreed, partially out of fear and partially because he was promised the top bunk.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Hall was nowhere close to the cell. He was off in a side room, lifting his makeshift weights.

At some point, Hall started twisting his workout rope into a noose. "When he was done, he looked over at me and I stuck my hand out and he gave me the rope," Rose said.

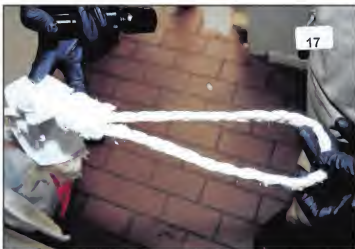
As part of his plea deal, Rose said Hall specifically told him to drop the noose off in Sawa's cell. On the stand, he backtracked, claiming he couldn't remember if Hall told him that, only that Hall had "joked" that Sawa should use the noose to "strut up."

Rose took the noose and tossed it into Sawa's cell. "I told him to do himself a favour. He was a piece of s--- in our eyes."

Mike Slingerland was playing cards while this was hap-



The Thorold Detention Centre.



A photo provided as evidence in the hanging death of Kelvin Sawa at the Niagara Detention Centre.

pening. He testified Hall walked in and said, "We're not going to have to worry about it too much longer, he's going to strut up."

Within minutes, word started circulating that Sawa had done just that.

Mike Bisson, one of the main instigators of the abuse, started pouncing. He wanted to get the guards, but according to several inmates, Hall stopped him.

"He was very adamant in telling Mike not to inform the guards," said Slingerland. "I--- it, let him hang," Hall said, according to David Earle.

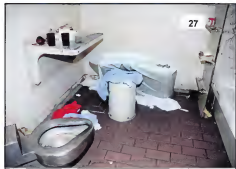
While Sawa was dying, Hall was telling jokes, Boland said. He adopted a Forrest Gump accent. "Somebody hung himself today, Jenny," Hall said, according to Boland.

Eventually, Bisson did hammer on the glass. William Martin heard him and pulled

Sawa from his cell. He died on Aug. 18, 2011.

An autopsy cited "multiple organ failure due to hanging." He had several broken ribs. His face was a mess of lumps and contusions. He had no wounds on his hands. He never fought back.

In a statement of facts read to the jury, the Crown and the defence agreed Sawa showed no signs of being suicidal before he entered the range



A photo provided as evidence in the hanging death of Kelvin Sawa at the Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold.

that day.

"I don't think he had it in him to commit suicide," his sister said. "He certainly wouldn't do it in front of someone."

Instead, he was, in the words of Crown attorney Andrew Brown, "bullied by his fellow inmates into taking his own life."

In his closing statement, Brown argued Hall was ultimately responsible for Sawa's death. He controlled the range. He started the beating. He made the noose.

"Some may wonder if Kelvin Sawa got what he deserved," Brown said. "They could not be more wrong. ... Jailhouse justice is not justice for Kelvin Sawa, or for any of us."

His case went to the jury May 28. After six days of deliberation, the jurors pronounced themselves hopelessly deadlocked. The judge ruled the case a mistrial. The Crown must now must decide if it plans to retry.

A spokesman for the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services said because the trial could begin again at some point, the ministry would not comment. It would not comment on why a protective custody range had 33 prisoners

stuffed into 12 cells. It would not comment on why guards, by all accounts, turned a blind eye to contraband on the range, including the rope Sawa used to hang himself, or how a prisoner was able to rule over fellow inmates with such ease.

Several guards testified staffing levels at the NDC were grossly inadequate. One said things were so bad that inmates could order guards off a range. "They're telling you to get off their unit," he said. "You generally had no, for safety reasons."

"So the inmates were telling you what to do?" the guard was asked.

"Correct," he replied.

After the case went to the jury, Sawa's sister Lisa sat outside the courthouse on a bench facing the Welland Recreational Canal. Lisa blames Hall and Rose for her brother's death. "It's very clear, I think, what happened," she said. "I have no doubt he was scared to death, literally."

Her brother's body, humiliated and abused, is buried now. "His tomb has a good shepherd and a cross on it," Lisa said. "It says 'May you find peace in heaven.' To me, that's where he is."

—National Post



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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

I've been thinking about social media dangers

PASTOR GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Now, I'm showing my age. It just seems like yesterday that a telephone was all there was in order to communicate.

The information superhighway allows all ages to make contact with people and communicate emotions, feelings, irritations and very personal information instantly and with everyone, everywhere.

Today, older generations have started to use the different devices for communication and information without realizing how addictive it can become. More and more older people jump for their cellphones at the first ringtone. Facebook has been so dominated by older generations that many younger people are finding other ways to connect with their tribe.

Through observation and personal experience, older generations are seeing those much younger attached to their devices as if it were an extension of their personhood and identity.

Identity has often been established in the home through inter-generational, face-to-face relationships. That has all changed as more and more information, much of which is suspect and often untrue, comes through social media.

There are so many ways to communicate and so many ways to receive information that most of us have no idea what or how much is really available. If you have not learned this yet, then talk to some younger people in your family or church or organization and have your world expanded beyond your wildest dreams.

There are applications on cellphones that can give you every type of answer to every type of question. Younger generations see their device, their cellphone, as an extension of themselves. And so, with this device, they can find out anything that they want about life while communicating in innumerable ways with friends and acquaintances, and even with strangers.

One of the things that baffles older generations is how younger generations can take what they receive on their cellphones with

such seriousness. It seems that whatever comes in, even about themselves, is taken as the final truth. You may be baffled by your grandson who has been bullied, called cyber-bullying, when we would just simply shut the device off or walk away from it. But they have such an attachment to the device and to what is being said, that it's as if the person bullying, threatening and denigrating are right there in the room with them, controlling their lives and identity. I've heard some older people, and myself included, ask "why don't they just shut the cellphone off; get off Facebook or whatever it is that they're listening to or reading." Easier said than done, if that device and that information is a part of your identity, an extension of yourself.

Concerns are now rising about the number of young people who are taking this so seriously that they are being destroyed, either by deep emotional chaos or to the point of suicide. These are young people who are considered to be at their prime, when they are told "the sky's the limit."

Our church, Port Colborne Baptist Church, is having a special session on this very issue

on Sunday, June 28, at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Sergio Espinoza, a pastor who works with youth in Welland and Dunnetville. We are so concerned about this that we are taking a morning service to inform and offer help to any who interested in knowing more.

Rev. Espinoza will speak on the subject, called "Dangerous Applications," and will address the issues, dangers, situations and dangerous applications that many young people are using on their cellphones.

It's hard to imagine, young people committing suicide because of others bullying them and threatening them, but this has happened far too often to let it pass.

Often, young people suffer through this with no cry for help, or no one they think they can trust, feeling trapped. Rev. Espinoza will be speaking to youths, parents and grandparents about the dangers of some cellphone applications. He will address the youths with what they can do to help themselves, and also parents and grandparents on how they can help their younger family members find their security outside of their devices and cyber-world attachments.



Tecun Uman is shown in this undated Dave Freeman photo from the Harry Stott Collection.

Shipwrecks –
Tecun UmanSKIP COLLHAM
For Postmedia network

The *Tecun Uman* was a Belgian built and Belgian flag cargo ship that first came to the Great Lakes in 1969.

The 97.01-metre-long-by-14.97-metre-wide freighter had been built at Tarnise, Belgium, and completed in July 1963.

The vessel operated for the Continental Lines (Armament) S.A. and returned through the St. Lawrence Seaway in the 1970s before being sold in 1973 and renamed *Imbroso*.

Now under the flag of Cyprus, *Imbroso* remained on saltwater runs before being lost on Dec. 18, 1975. The captain reported the crew was encountering heavy seas about 400 kilometres east of Savannah, Ga. The ship was on a voyage from Mobile, Ala. to Port Cartier, Que., with a cargo of railway sleepers when it simply disappeared.

There was no distress signal and none of the 22 sailors on board were ever found. The ship must have been overwhelmed by the waves or simply capsized before plunging beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean.

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■ **SKILLS CANADA:** Eli Schonewille representing Ontario wins gold at national competition

Port High student welded to success

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

A Port Colborne High School student welded his way to his second consecutive gold medal at Skills Canada in Saskatchewan.

Eli Schonewille made his school and community proud representing Ontario at the May 28-29 competition in Saskatoon. One student from each of nine participating provinces advanced to the competition, and Schonewille placed first among the group.

The competition consisted of the completion of two projects, one each day. Students were graded on them, each being worth 50% of their final grade.

Grades are not released, just the top three are ranked, and Schonewille landed at

the top of the podium.

He said he was happy to win gold again and that it was a nice way to finish high school. Graduating this year, Schonewille hopes to be a millwright or do a welding apprenticeship.

The Skills Canada National Competition is a national trade and technology competition for students and apprentices. According to the website, more than 500 students from across the country participated in more than 40 skilled trade and technology competitions.

Schonewille said he didn't think much about pursuing a career in welding before high school, but after trying it he said he changed his mind.

"I did a small project and just sort of got into it," said Schonewille.

His teacher, Vic Barker,

described him as "strong work ethic, coachable, outstanding problem-solving skills."

"He's ready to go to work, that's for sure," Barker said.

Barker's students have a strong reputation at both Skills Ontario and Skills Canada, having participated in the competitions for the last five years. Barker said Port High students have made it to the Canadawide competition four out of the five years, and brought home gold three times.

Through his courses the students can do certification tests to get welding tickets, which certifies them to do certain welds on sites and further preparing them for the workforce.

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FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

In this file photo, Eli Schonewille works in his welding class at Port Colborne High School.

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■ AVIATION

It's official: Airport to be renamed for Rungeling

OREN FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Niagara's southern municipal airport will be renamed for Pelham's pioneering Flying Housewife, Dorothy Rungeling.

"Oh, that's great, really," the 104-year-old said when told the news late last Thursday afternoon.

"It's wonderful," Rungeling said by phone from her Fonthill apartment at Lookout Point Retirement Village. A private bill introduced on behalf of the Niagara Central Airport Commission by Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak passed third and final reading in Ontario's legislature last Thursday morning, meaning the Pelham-based airport along the north bank of the Welland River can be renamed Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport.

"It's something I never ever thought of (happening)," she said. Bill 20 received unanimous consent.

"Speaker, a constituent of mine had always been afraid to fly; planes terrified her," Hudak told the legislature. "That is until her five-year son Barry goaded her one day to get up into a plane for a test run."

She never, ever wanted to step inside an airplane — but Rungeling became perhaps the most celebrated woman in Canadian aviation.

She was the first Canadian woman to hold an airline transport pilot licence, the first to solo a helicopter, earned numerous air force trophies and was awarded the Amelia Earhart Medal.

She's been called Canada's Flying Housewife.

Born in 1911, the adopted daughter of noted Canadian poet



POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Aviation pioneer Dorothy Rungeling, shown in this 2010 photo, holds a picture of herself taken decades ago with her first place trophy after winning the Governor-General's Cup Race in Toronto. Ontario's legislature passed a private bill to rename Niagara Central Airport in her honour.

Ethelwyn Wetherald started flying in 1948. She got her licence Aug. 10, 1949. That same year, her husband Charles bought her a two-seater Luscombe Silhouette 8A plane. She traded it the next year for a four-seat Piper PA-20.

Rungeling is a member of the Ninety-Nines — a sorority for pilots that was initiated by Amelia Earhart in 1929, its name believed to derive from the number of women who first joined the group.

She regularly defeated men in air races across North America, winning the Governor General's Cup at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1953 and 1955.

She earned her commercial pilot's licence in 1951, instructor's certification in 1953, her senior commercial pilot's licence in 1954 and in 1958 her airline transport licence — the first Canadian woman to do so — and that year also became the first woman to pilot a helicopter solo.

In the 1950s, as business manager of the flying club at the airport she was instrumental in the facility's survival and, in a first for eastern Canada, led an effort to have air marking atop the huge metal roof of Welland's Atlas Steels plant.

In 1964 she became the first woman to sit on Pelham town council.

She was awarded an Amelia Earhart Medal in the early '80s in recognition of all her achievements, and in 1999 she was inducted into the International Forest of Friendship, in Archison, Kan., Earhart's birthplace and site of a museum and forest of trees from all 50 U.S.

At age 90, Rungeling began writing the first of her four books. Details of an airport renaming celebration are expected to be announced later.

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■ UNANIMOUS MOTION

Region committee opposes liquid nuke transport

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Niagara Region politicians say there should be no shipment of liquid nukes through Niagara.

That sentiment, contained in a motion by Lincoln Coxon. Bill Hodgson, was unanimously supported by the region's public works committee last week.

Earlier this year Hodgson raised the issue, citing concerns about the potential transit of highly enriched uranium through Ontario.

Region staff reported on the possibility that nuclear waste could be transported through Niagara, from a nuclear facility near Chalk River, Ont., to a processing site in Aiken, S.C.

It would be transported in liquid form for the first time, which has caused concern among public interest groups.

Arrangements for those shipments, though, can't be revealed publicly for security reasons, councillors were told.

A regional emergency management plan is in place and would be put into action should an incident involving that nuclear waste happen in Niagara.

The transport of nuclear material is regulated through the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Transport Canada under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act and the Transport of Dangerous Goods Act.

The memorandum says in a 2013 open letter, the safety commission emphasizes the approval for shipment of nuclear materials is only granted when they are satisfied the safety of Canadians and the environment is protected.

But Hodgson's motion opposes in principle any shipment of radioactive liquid waste through Niagara, by any means, "recognizing that such waste can be, has been and should be solidified so that it is far less accessible to (living things)."

It also urged the governments of Canada and the U.S. to stop any delivery of high-level radioactive liquid waste from Chalk River Laboratories to the Savannah River site, pending full public consultations.

"There is no past experience in trucking of this type of waste," Hodgson said.

"It's also one thing to say these are all approved (by various authorities), and we all know what happened in Lac-Mégantic, Que. 'There's a risk here, and it hasn't been thoroughly examined,' he said."

"I'd rather be called an activist on this one, than have history call us asleep at the switch."

He said a risk analysis needs to be done in a public forum.

St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra said about 150 of the transport certificates are issued in Canada each year. He said to his knowledge, at least some of it might be liquid.

"Every single organization that transports radioactive material must have an emergency plan in place, maintain a radiation protection program, train workers, report incidents," he said.

"Over the 45 years that this has been followed, there has not been one incident regarding a radiological spill."

Dykstra said he could understand councillors' concern and the safety concerns are important.

"But this is a heavily regulated industry," he said. "Approval is only granted when criteria has been fully satisfied and the safety of Canadians is assured."

He said Niagara wants to be a transportation hub and has put in a request to be a foreign trade zone to be approved by the federal government.

"As important as it is to ensure we have environmental safety in place, we also need to make sure (economic development initiatives) include transportation," Dykstra said.

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GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Paddlers compete in the Welland Dragon Boat Festival at the Welland International Flatwater Centre course.

Paddle power drives dragons

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

It would appear Derek Avis has been bitten by a dragon.

He was exhibiting all the symptoms Saturday: A perpetual grin, upbeat attitude and infectious laughter.

It was his first time paddling in a dragon boat, an opportunity afforded by the Welland Dragon Boat Festival and his Port Colborne employer J. Oskam Steel Fabricators, which ponied up the individual \$85 entry fee for not just one but two teams.

"This is really fun," Avis said, from next to the paddlers' tent village set up at Welland International Flatwater Centre.

"We went for an hour practice Friday, just to get the feel of how it's done, because we'd never done it before," he said.

"We have that co-worker type of thing, but when you get tossed into something like this it brings you a little closer, you know?"

That didn't mean second team, so that was a good start," Avis said, smiling.

Though a fun endeavour, he said the strong winds that were blowing, unusually from the northeast, proved challenging.

"If it was blowing the other way, it would have been a lot harder," he said.

Nancy Maloney and Carrie Morrell, both from the Buffalo-based Hope Chest crew, also remarked on the course conditions.

"They called it 'heavy water,' more difficult water" than they're accustomed to. Hope Chest is the second-oldest breast cancer survivor dragon boat crew in the United States. Maloney said the team normally plots out a schedule of events to attend within a five-hour radius of their home base.

"Our whole team travelled, we've got 50 of us here," Morrell said.

This Saturday, the team will host Hope Chest Buffalo Niagara Dragon Boat Festival.

val at UB Baird Point.

Maloney said she'll be back in Welland in August — as a spectator — for Dragon Boat Niagara 2015, when the Rose City hosts the Pan American Club Crew Dragon Boat Championships, followed by the International Dragon Boat Federation 12th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships.

DBN2015 is expected to attract more than 4,000 athletes from more than 20 countries.

At Saturday's event there were about 1,200 athletes, said festival co-ordinator Janet Madume. There were 31 teams entered, up from 23 last year, the furthest away coming from Florida.

Hosted by Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre since 2002, the festival's revenues support its programming in areas like immigration and employment services. The event also assists its partner Rotary Club of Welland in supporting community projects and programs, including for youth.

Madume was pleased with the way the action unfolded Saturday, reporting "no hiccups" in her second year overseeing the event.

"It's great, the weather is fantastic. Everyone is happy," she said.

People who didn't take to the course also seemed pleased.

Fort Erie's Jennifer Larochelle had planned to take her son and three nephews strawberry picking, but after learning they couldn't forage for themselves started to head back home. Then they stumbled upon the free-to-attend festival.

"We were just driving by and saw it, so we decided to stop," she said.

"It's fun. It's different," Larochelle said about a half-hour in to seeing dragon boat races for the first time.

"I just asked the kids if they wanted to leave," she said from the grandstands, "and they said no."

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■ CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tickets on sale for Dragon Boat Niagara 2015

Postmedia Network

Tickets are on sale for Dragon Boat Niagara 2015, which will see thousands of athletes take to Welland's recreational waterway this summer.

DBN2015 features two international dragon boat racing championships that will attract more than 4,000 athletes from more than 20 countries.

The first championship series is the Pan American Club Crew Dragon Boat Championships, Aug. 14 to 16.

The second event is the International Dragon Boat Federation 12th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, which will take charge of Welland International Flatwater Centre Aug. 19 to 23.

In addition to the action on water, DBN2015 will boast a free Shoreline Market and Expo taking place on the banks of the Welland Recreational Canal. It will feature a wide range of food vendors, a beer and wine garden, music, buskers, merchandisers, ethnic and cultural displays, local artisans, face painters and more.

Tickets for the competition are available at www.wdbrc2015.ca 2015 and www.wific.ca.

By purchasing a grandstand general admission ticket, pass holders get access to the grandstands at the finish line of the race course. To have access to the grandstands during competition days, spectators are required to purchase a ticket. People have the option to purchase a day pass or an event pass.

Children ages nine and under are admitted free of charge.

Ticket prices for the Pan Am championships are \$10 for a day pass or \$15 for an event pass.

Ticket prices for the world championships are \$10 for a day pass or \$25 for an event pass.

For the ultimate Inside access to all the exciting happenings at Dragon Boat Niagara, a \$25 Fan Pass offers numerous perks: access to a VIP seating area (limited space) when purchased in conjunction with a grandstand general admission ticket plus a number of contests and prizes throughout the event, fast track service lines for select vendors and the wine and beer garden, coupons to vendors in the Shoreline Market and Expo and for businesses throughout Niagara.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NIAGARA:** Women Build a first for local home-building organization

No place like home for family of 6

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Ernst Jean Charles looks forward to barbecuing steak out back of his new Welland home, then spreading back in a spacious kitchen while he savours it all.

"I've been searching for the past seven years," he says of his quest to move his family of six out of the apartment they have been living in since first arriving in Welland.

The Haitian immigrant who played professional soccer in his home country and later in the U.S. on his way to Canada, and who now drives a school bus for a living, perhaps looks forward most to having a little more indoor elbow room.

"I love my space," the 41-year-old said with a big smile under sunny skies Friday morning.

Moments earlier, he and his family — wife Sherlyne, 36, and children Errine, 14, Sherna, 11, Ericka, 9, and Ernestson, 5 — broke ground on their Habitat for Humanity Niagara semi-detached home at the corner of Bald and Fraser Sts.

"We've been praying just to have a place we can call home," said Sherlyne, employed as a personal support worker.

She looks forward to putting in volunteer hours to help build the zero-interest mortgage home — a second family has yet to be selected — over the next few months.

"I am a hard worker, but this is my first time doing this," she said construction.

No worries, she and her family won't be alone.

For the first time, Habitat Niagara is undertaking a Women Build project that will see most of the hard-hat wearers also carrying purses to the job site.

Among those who will be pounding nails is Lori Love, a radio personality from 102.7 Rock 105.7. She led off Friday's ceremonial sod-turning.

"We're still looking for sponsors, we're still looking for money and teams," she



PHOTOS BY GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Jean Charles family — from left Ernst, Errine, Erika, Ernestson, Sherlyne and Sherna — will be one of two families moving in to a Habitat for Humanity Niagara semi-detached home at Bald and Fraser Sts. in Welland that will primarily see women builders wearing hard hats.

said, encouraging people to get news of the special build out through Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms.

"We're the No. 1 radio sta-

tion in Niagara for women, so the partnership (with Habitat) just made sense," Love said.

People who drive by during construction might also see Welland Ward 1 council-

lor Mary Ann Grimaldi hard at work.

"I want to get in there and get dirty, too," she said.

"Then sign up," women builders shouted back.

"I will," Grimaldi replied.

PEC Roofing project manager Tara Christensen is glad she'll be working alongside more than 300 other women.

"I am always, always the minority on the job site," she said lightheartedly, encour-

HOUSEWORK HELPERS NEEDED

There are many spots for women to still volunteer. Men are also welcome to participate. Materials and services help is also needed. Builders and donors are encouraged to learn more at www.habitatniagara.ca/women-build

aged that so many women will be learning new skills.

Christensen, and Home by Hendriks president Yvonne Hendriks are helping spearhead planning and fundraising.

Ground was broken Friday with shovels, each adorned with bows of purple — the theme shade of the job site.

The Jean Charles took part in the sod-turning alongside other project partners.

The foundation will be dug starting next week, and the housing build will start in July.

"It's going to change this neighbourhood," said Habitat CEO Alastair Davis. "It's going to particularly change the lives of these families."

The home construction is expected to be complete by Oct. 5, World Habitat Day, when the keys will be turned over to the two benefitting families.

By coincidence, Ernst and Sherlyne will also celebrate their 11th wedding anniversary that day.



Habitat for Humanity Niagara launched a semi-detached housing build at Bald and Fraser Sts. in Welland that will primarily see women wearing the hard hats.

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LOCAL NEWS

COMIC CON

Celebs draw serious fans

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

When his *Walking Dead* cast mates would return from a weekend comic con, actor Scott Wilson was intrigued.

"A lot of the actors were doing shows and they'd come back and have smiles on their faces," the veteran actor recalled. "I thought, what's all about this?"

While many of the show's ensemble cast are familiar faces on the comic con and fan expo circuit, it was uncharted territory for Wilson, 73.

That all changed after he attended his first comic con a few years ago. He was

hooked.

While he has more than 50 films to his credit, including *In Cold Blood* from 1967, he's now best known for his role as Greene family patriarch Hershel Greene on the wildly-popular show from 2011 to 2014.

"*Walking Dead* is a phenomenon," he said with a smile. "It's just extraordinary. I've been acting for 50 years and now I'm Hershel." Wilson was one of the main attractions at Niagara Falls Comic Con over the weekend.

"I love it," Wilson said of his fans. "And I love Niagara Falls. There's something powerfully majestic about Niagara Falls."



MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Fans showed up by the thousands to be part of Niagara Falls Comic Con last weekend.

Also popular with the fans were Ryan Hurst from *Sons of Anarchy*, Cassandra Peterson a.k.a. Elvira and David Has-

selhoff.

While the final numbers have yet to be determined, show manager and promoter

Chris Dabrowski said more than 20,000 people walked through the doors at the Scotia Bank Convention Centre

during the three-day event.

"We've definitely exceeded the 20,000 mark," he said Sunday.

Dabrowski is already working on next year's show.

"I can't say much yet, but there are going to be surprises," he said. "There's a number of icons who are on our wish list."

The event featured more than 30 celebrities, 50 artists and 200 exhibitors.

There were panel rooms, question-and-answer sessions, a horror fest, cosplay contest and an 1980s-themed game section.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **BUSINESS:** Hockey great likely to be in town 10 or 12 times a year

Gretzky to open winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake



PENNY COLES / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Plans to open the Wayne Gretzky Winery and Craft Distillery were announced at Trius Winery by, from left, Mark Torrance, national director of estate wineries for Peller Estates, NOTL Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Greg Bertl, vice-president of global markets for Andrew Peller Ltd. and town CAO Mike Gallaway.

PENNY COLES
Postmedia Network

It's been in the works for more than five years, but now it's official — Wayne Gretzky wines will have a new, permanent home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Gretzky brand was taken over by Andrew Peller Ltd. six years ago, and discussions have been ongoing since about a new winery. On Monday, the site plan application for a 15,000-square-foot facility on Peller property, beside its Trius Winery on Niagara Stone Rd., was submitted to the town. It will be called the Wayne Gretzky Winery and Craft Distillery, and include retail and tasting space as

well as fermentation and barrel cellars, says Greg Bertl, vice-president of global markets for Andrew Peller Ltd. Peller has been making wine in Canada for more than 50 years, and opened one of the first wineries in NOTL 35 years ago. It owns about 300 acres of vineyards, and buys more than 4,000 tonnes of grapes from 30 local farmers, said Bertl.

There will be three or four acres of new grapes planted for Gretzky wines and more purchased locally, he said.

The site of the new winery, with entrances from Line 3 and Niagara Stone Rd., was once used by a local farmer for raising beef cattle and growing tomatoes, but

has not been in production for more than 30 years, said Bertl. It's taken a while to work out the details, and nothing is done without Gretzky's OK — he approves everything, from the taste of his wines to the labels. "He's a hockey player with a keen sense of style and taste," said Bertl.

The plan is to begin construction in the fall and be ready to open by spring 2017.

Gretzky's hands-on approach means "he won't be in Niagara-on-the-Lake once or twice a year; he'll be here 10 or 12 times," said Bertl.

Gretzky's award-winning wine has been around for a decade, made by Australian winemaker Craig McDonald, who will continue on in the new facility. Bertl, who has travelled across Canada with Gretzky on wine-related business, says the love and familiarity the public shows for the hockey player is amazing, and not just because he's the Great One in hockey, but because of his personal reputation. "He's like a pried pie when he walks through the airport. He's a Canadian icon, but for far more than hockey — for the person he is, the family man, and all he represents." While his name on the bottle helps sell wine, "you have to like it to buy the second bottle. At least his is an easy name to remember when you go looking for it," Bertl said.

The facility designed by Gren Wels, the Oakville architect who designed Peller Estate Winery on John St. in NOTL, will fit into the "rural Ontario context" but with a contemporary vision.

Bertl said while there are lots of glass incorporated into the design, providing "inspiring views of vineyards and the escarpment," it also has a barn-inspired look to it.

He wouldn't put a price tag to it, just that it's in the "multi-millions," saying there are too many details to be worked out to pin down how much it will cost. Gretzky, says Bertl, "is very excited about the new winery."

As a "hockey guy" himself, NOTL Lord Mayor Pat Darte says he's looking forward to having the winery in town.

"It's absolutely good for NOTL. A brand like that, having a presence in town, will bring a whole new group of people to town just for that. Some of them may want to go further and they can, but others, hockey people will come to visit and get their photo taken beside that No. 99 on the building."

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Or just put in more benches in public areas and parks.

All are examples of the kind of initiatives envisioned in a newly released Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan.

The Niagara Age-Friendly Community Network project was revealed last Friday at Niagara Region headquarters.

"It's an aging strategy, not a seniors strategy," said Network co-chair Dominic Ventresca.

The objective, he said, is a healthy "community for all ages."

Developing the strategy involved getting feedback from more than 500 people across the region, including numerous service providers and others concerned with an aging population.

The audience was told the region's population is steadily getting older.

In 2014, people 65 and older comprised 20.5% of the population, compared to 15.7% in Canada. Seniors are also living longer, and many are finding Niagara a welcome place to retire.

Seniors have a lot to contribute with

their knowledge, life experience, volunteer time and disposable income.

But they will also be needing more public resources in areas like medical care and social service.

Ventresca said the action plan zeroes in on a number of goals. They include boosting the profile of seniors in a community, making a healthy and active lifestyles easier, and improving the wellness of seniors.

The project that was unveiled also includes a toolkit with resources available in a variety of areas for seniors.

Developed by Shercon Associates Inc, the strategy is intended to be flexible and serve as a planning guideline for agencies, governments and businesses.

In an interview, Bunney Alexander — a member of the Welland Senior Citizens Advisory Committee — said Niagara's growing senior population "has very special needs" in areas like housing, health care and transportation.

"We all need to focus on how we can provide these services, in an easier and safer (way)," said Alexander, who is also on the Niagara Health System board. "And this will really help us to get there."

For more information, including the full project report, implementation template and look kit, visit www.niagarainconnects.ca.

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FRIDAY JUNE 19 THE FALLING
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING | AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Cast: Florence Pugh, Maisie Williams, Greta Scacchi, Maxine Peake, Monica Dolan
It's 1969 at a strict English girls' school where charismatic Abbie and intense and troubled Lydia are best friends. After a tragedy occurs at the school, a mysterious fainting epidemic breaks out threatening the stability of all involved.

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FRIDAY JUNE 19



PELLER ESTATES WINERY
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
FOR GRACE CAST: CURTIS DUFFY **CHEF CURTIS DUFFY ATTENDING**

SOUTHBROOK VINEYARDS
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS **CANADIAN PREMIERE**
CAST: JONAH CLEMENT, REGINA HALL, STEPHANIE ALLYNNE

HENRY OF PELHAM FAMILY ESTATE
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
THE OVERNIGHT **CANADIAN PREMIERE**
CAST: ADAM SCOTT, TAYLOR SCHILLING, JASON SCHWARTZMAN, JUSTIN GORDECH

REDSTONE WINERY
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
ADVANTAGEOUS **JACQUELINE KIM ATTENDING**
CAST: JACQUELINE KIM, FREYA ADAMS, JAMES URBANIAK, JOHNNIE EHLE, JENNIFER KESIN, KEN JEWING, SAMANTHA KORMANNE PEASE, MOLLY DOLOAN

SATURDAY JUNE 20



PELLER ESTATES WINERY
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
LITTLE BIG MASTER **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**
CAST: MORGAN CHAN, NINA YOUNG, LOUIS HOO, RICHARD NG

SOUTHBROOK VINEYARDS
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
POSTHUMOUS **CANADIAN PREMIERE**
CAST: JACK HUSTON, BRIE MARLING, LAWRENT WILSON, TOM SCHILLING, ALEXANDER FELDING

HENRY OF PELHAM FAMILY ESTATE
SPECIAL SCREENING - SOLD OUT
HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD
CAST: BILL DAPHER, DAVID GARRECK, BOB HUNTER, BOBBY HUNTER, EMILY HUNTER, PAUL WATSON, BARRY PEPPER

REDSTONE WINERY
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS
CAST: BUTHE SHANER, SAN ELIOTT, MARTIN STARR, MALIN ARZMAN, RHEA PERLMAN, HARRY KAY PLACE



SATURDAY JUNE 20 MATCH
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING | AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Cast: Patrick Stewart, Carla Gugino, Matthew Lillard
Patrick Stewart gives a captivating performance in this witty, emotionally gripping adaptation of director Stephen Belber's own Tony Award-nominated play.



SUNDAY JUNE 21 UNEXPECTED
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING | AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Cast: Cobie Smulders, Gail Bean, Elizabeth McGovern
When Samantha Abbott begins her final semester teaching science at a Chicago high school, she faces some unexpected news: She's pregnant. Soon after, Samantha learns that one of her favorite students, Jasmine, has landed in a similar situation.



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THE HOTEL OEU (SOLO OUT) • FOR GRACE • VIAJE
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• DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL
SUNDAY JUNE 21
POSTHUMOUS • LITTLE BIG MASTER • LOST PENNY
THE QUARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL • FANCIFUL • I'LL SEE
YOU IN MY DREAMS • BEST OF ENEMIES • MATCH

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SATURDAY JUNE 20
THE AMAZING WIPALA • THE OVERNIGHT
UNEXPECTED • THE QUIET HOUR

SUNDAY JUNE 21
HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD
• STATION TO STATION • PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS
• KATHLEEN CARROLL IN CONVERSATION: NETWORK

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Lock 3 museum's the scene of a real 'whodunit'

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

In the earliest days of St. Catharines, volunteer constables walked the beat armed only with their wits and a billy club.

Today's officers patrol the streets in high-tech squad cars, protected with Kevlar vests and carrying Tasers, pepper spray and sleek Glock pistols. It is all laid out in the St.

Catharines Museum's new Law and Order exhibit, which explores more than a century of policing in the city.

"Our new exhibit uncovers the men and women, the tools and the

laws that have kept our community safe over the years," said museum curator Kathleen Powell.

"You'll be amazed how much has changed and how much old-school sleuthing still works today."

One of the most striking features of the exhibit is a bomb-disposal sled and body armour that were made locally for the police in the 1970s. It's heavy and awkward and doesn't look like it would offer much protection.

Powell said the Niagara Regional Police began training in emergency management as early as 1971 in response to the activities of the FLQ in Quebec and the October Crisis the year before.

"The gear is really heavy," she said. "The idea is you would put it on, and then you would hide behind the shield and approach a bomb." Powell said it takes about a year to create a special exhibit such as this one, which also highlights some stories of crime and the evolution of the local court system.

"Some of the handcuffs are pretty old from the 1860s," Powell said. "One of the oldest artifacts is a blackjack from the Fenian Raids in the period from 1866 to 1870. It was basically a beaver-sick. We also have a lock from the Lincoln County Jail,

JUST THE FACTS

A statistical snapshot of the County of Lincoln Jail in 1866

- Total number of prisoners (over 16) received in the prison during the year — males, 135; females, 29; total 164.
- Number of prisoners from each of the several countries mentioned — Canada, 108; England, 15; Ireland, 40; Scotland, 3; United States, 16; other countries, 3. Total 185.
- Greatest number in jail at one time, 41.
- Number of insane persons received in the jail during the year, 4.

Sources: St. Catharines Museum exhibit on Law and Order

which was built in 1866."

Law and Order in St. Catharines will be on display until April 2016. Visit www.stcatharinesmuseum.ca, phone 905-984-8880 or e-mail museum@stcatharines.ca for more information about the new exhibit or the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canal Centre.

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JULIE JACSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Museum curator Kathleen Powell checks out one of the most striking features in the St. Catharines Museum's new Law and Order exhibit, a bomb-disposal sled and body armour made locally for the Niagara Regional Police in the 1970s.

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■ **EDUCATION:** Goodman School of Business

Brock bullish on business school growth

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Brock University's business school is bursting at the seams.

Since its Taro Hall home building was built in 1990, the Goodman School of Business has gone gangbusters.

At one point, it was hiring as much as eight new faculty a year. Enrollment at the top-tier school has soared to 2,774 undergraduates and 564 graduates.

"We really were one of the fastest growing business schools," its dean, Don Cyr, said inside his own cramped office in Taro.

"So we're at the point of complete capacity in this building," said Cyr. "And we actually don't have one more office space available and we have a number of staff sharing offices meant for one person."

In some cases, there are up to four full-time lecturers in an office, "so it's just impossible," he said with a rueful laugh.

While they are able to juggle

some offices elsewhere, other departments are pretty crammed as well.

Classrooms are also dated with broken seats and outdated technology infrastructure.

Virtually all business schools in Ontario have also gone through major upgrades relatively recently — except Brock.

It's why the announcement of \$10 million of funding in the April 23 provincial budget comes as a massive relief to the faculty and university.

An announcement will also be made for a significant private-sector donation that will be on top of the \$10 million over two years, that was contingent on government money.

That formal announcement of the build and total funding has yet to be made.

While initial plans were for a new building, Cyr said expanding and renovating from the current site is ideal as the location is central and well-connected to other sites on campus like co-op offices.

"There's a lot of good things

about the Taro location and adding onto it," he said. "I personally like that better."

"We'll expand the Taro building and renovate the existing classroom space and facilities, which is sorely needed," he said. "It will add needed classroom, and office space ... It will also add a lot more space for students to work in a collaborative team way."

The school, about the 10th largest in Canada, has carved some impressive and unique niches.

One is in its expansive co-op program, among the largest number of business co-op placements in Canada.

It also has strong international links, notably the expanding MBA International Student Pathway which brings in about 120 students per year, most of them from China.

A number of them express interest in staying in Niagara afterward, he said.

And of regional importance, the Brock business program includes service-learning

for mostly local businesses, groups and agencies.

In it, a non-profit, small business or other organization is assigned to a professor and student team to help solve a problem like marketing or strategy.

Over a year, Cyr said about 1,400 students will be involved in these consultant-style service projects as part of their program. It amounts to about \$395,000 a year in in-kind contributions to the community.

"We've had great feedback from the participants and students," he said. "There's a very deep learning opportunity involved with it."

Cyr is also proud being with the only school in Ontario aside from Waterloo to be accredited to offer a complete bachelor-to-masters curriculum in the new Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario designation.

"That program is going to expand significantly," he said. The faculty is also involved in a number of non-credit programming in Niagara such

BY THE NUMBERS

Brock's Goodman School of Business (most recent stats)

- undergraduate program enrolment - 2,774
- graduate programs - 564
- certificate programs - 66
- co-op placements - 828
- faculty members - 92

as the professional management certificate and another in municipal leadership.

At another site in Brock, the school also has a hand in the BioLine Business Incubator located in the new Cairns building. It is focused on promoting the growth and commercialization of new businesses and discoveries at the university.

In that facility is also a Goodman School of Business Consulting Group that lets students work with smaller local

businesses and organizations to provide management consulting services.

Meanwhile, its centre for innovation, management and enterprise education offers public seminars in leadership, business management and human resources.

Jenna Dusanova, a recent Goodman grad, said she has been doubly rewarded with getting her MBA at Brock and working with the Goodman Consulting Group.

"As a consulting officer, we contribute to the community with these ... services at a very affordable price," said Dusanova who is now a financial analyst at Brock and is graduating in June.

"We charge a very small amount compared to the (larger) consulting firms," she said.

"And as an MBA student, it's how I got to contribute to the community — through my school."

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Looking for an online
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You will receive their
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General Help Wanted

PORT COLBORNE AREA CARRIER ROUTES AVAILABLE

NO COLLECTING!
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Tribune routes: Mon-Sat

MICHAEL DR S.
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HAMPTON, SCHOLFIELD AVE
CLARENCE, WESTWOOD, STANLEY
LENA & OLGA
BERKLEY, WELLINGTON
AMELIA, MELLANBY, CANAL BANK
BORDEN, OMER
EXT 503389 OR EXT 503272

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Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Anniversaries

Anniversaries

*Happy 50th
Golden Anniversary*



MARR, Donald & Carmella -
June 12th, 1965

Friends & family are invited to an open
house at the Italian Canadian Cultural
Centre of Port Colborne

223 Bell St.
Sunday, June 14th, 2015 from 1-4 pm
Best wishes only

A Loving Tribute



businessdirectory

Renovations

KENS RENOS Kit,
Bath, Rec rm, plumb-
ing, dwall, tile, hardwood,
flooring, fences,
in/exit, Repairs. Bath
dewall Call Ken at 905-
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